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ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

SNORE
Truck and Buggy Race

EA-NV-040-08-15

Bureau of Land Management

Ely Field Office

HC33 Box 33500

Ely, Nevada 89301

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I. Background Information

Introduction

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is responding to an application by Don Wall with the Southern Nevada Off-Road Enthusiasts (SNORE) racing club for a special recreation permit to hold a competitive truck and buggy motorized race event.

The BLM prepared this environmental assessment (EA) pursuant to the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), implementing the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). The EA analyzes the site specific impacts of the proposed action and alternative actions to prevent undue and irreversible impacts to the resources found on BLM managed public land. This EA will address two alternatives; the proposed action and a no action alternative. The analysis of the proposed action contained in this EA would be sufficient for subsequent relevant events until the proposed action and/or land management issues change as to require new NEPA analysis.

Project Location

The routes proposed for use are located outside of Caliente, Nevada in Lincoln County. The legal description for the routes proposed for use are as follows:

T 02 S, R 68 E, Sections 33
T 03 S, R 67 E, Sections 23-29, 32, 35
T 03 S, R 68 E, Sections 3, 4, 9-11, 13-16, 21-36
T 03 S, R 69 E, Sections, 30-32
T 04 S, R 67 E, Sections, 1, 5, 8-14, 16, 17, 20, 21, 24, 25, 28, 29, 32, 33
T 04 S, R 68 E, Sections, 1-12, 17-20, 29-32
T 04 S, R 69 E, Sections, 5-8, 17, 18
T 05 S, R 67 E, Sections, 4, 9, 10, 14, 15, 23-26, 36
T 05 S, R 68 E, Sections, 4-7, 9, 10, 15, 16, 18, 19, 21, 22, 26-31, 33-35,
T 06 S, R 68 E, Sections, 2-4, 9-15

Purpose and Need for Proposed Action

The purpose of the proposed action would be to respond to an application for a competitive event on public lands by SNORE and other racing organizations under appropriate terms and conditions needed to minimize impacts to other resource values and uses. The need for this action is in response to a demand for competitive motorized racing opportunities. The event would provide an organized racing opportunity for participants with motorcycles, all-terrain vehicles (ATVs) and full-size vehicles.

Conformance with Land Use Plan

The proposed action is in conformance with the Caliente Management Framework Plan (MFP). The Caliente Management Framework Plan (MFP) states, "The remainder of the Caliente Planning Unit should remain open [OHV Recreation]" (page 34, paragraph h). The proposed race course is located within the open

designation and is not located within any of the Caliente Resource Area MFP areas where organized OHV events were determined as not allowable.

The proposed action is also consistent with the Lincoln County Public Land and Natural RMP, which states, "...public lands will be managed for the benefit [of] its own citizenry while welcoming the constructive development of recreational activities and beneficial use of other natural resources" (page 12, paragraph 9) and "Off Road Races and other events are reviewed by the ORV committee and it is mandatory that any race, plans for a race or other event be reviewed and recommended by them to the County Commission for approval or disapproval" (Recreation, policies #3) Stipulations of the permit require event promoters to provide this information to the Lincoln County ORV committee.

Scoping and Issues

Scoping

Scoping was done internally with environmental resource specialists and posted on the BLM website for 30 days for public review and comments.

Issues

Issues with the proposed action were identified during the internal and external review process. These issues include:

- Noxious and Invasive Weed Species - Preventing the introduction and spread of non-native invasive weeds. The seeds of these weeds could be introduced or spread by participants using the proposed course. Sahara Mustard is of particular concern due to its abundance in the Las Vegas area.
- Rangeland Health and Livestock Grazing- Conflicts with range resources and the need to coordinate between events and ranching operations.
- Soils - Reducing the level of erosion occurring on segments of existing roads and trails to be used by the racecourse. Additional use of these trails within and after a competitive event could increase the level of erosion.
- Cultural Resources - Archeological resource protection (avoidance)
- Water quality/Riparian – Concern regarding impacts that race would have on water quality, particularly where the race crosses waterways.
- Air quality - Increase of particulate matter in the area in association with the event, particularly during the start of the event.
- Vegetation – Loss of vegetation along the edge of routes used by the event, particularly in areas where vehicles may tend to widen, short cut, or "blow" corners. The need for additional road maintenance may also impact vegetation due to the tendency of this action to widen roads.

- Wildlife/Threatened and Endangered Species – Concern over the impact that the race may have on wildlife resources particularly threatened and endangered species that are found in the Clover Wash area.
- Wild Horses – Concern regarding the impact that the event may have on wild horses in the area.

II. Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives

No Action

Under the No Action alternative the application for a special recreation permit to hold a competitive truck race would not be granted. The race identified in the proposed action would not occur. The demand for a competitive truck event in the area would continue.

Proposed Action

Under the proposed action, the BLM would grant SNORE racing club a special recreation permit to hold an organized truck/buggy race on May 9-10, 2008. For analysis purposes the period of use analyzed is from April 1 to October 1 and would be pertinent for analysis purposes until the nature of future proposed actions, change in management plans, or environmental conditions cause this environmental assessment to no longer be accurate and valid. The proposed race course would be approximately 46 miles in length and is located entirely on existing roads, trails, washes and previously disturbed areas. An additional 102 miles of existing roads and trails would also be allowed for competitive use as alternatives to this course for future events. This would allow various segments “to rest” and not be raced on a yearly basis. The pit locations, start/finish, and primary concentration of spectators would be located on private land in the city of Caliente (see Appendix A for pit/start location). For each event, participants race the course approximately 5 laps.

This event would be a competitive race. The proponent expects that 65 event participants and 80 spectators would attend the event. It is anticipated that the popularity of the activity would increase in the future, increasing the number of spectators and participants. For analysis purposes it is estimated that up to 100 participants and 200 spectators would attend events in the future.

Per event stipulations the race permittee would be responsible for all clean-up efforts and any restoration measures required at pit locations and along the permitted courses following the event. The permittee would provide portable toilets for use by spectators and participants. On-site emergency medical services and communication would be provided by the permit holder.

As part of the operations plan and per event stipulations the proponent/permit holder would be required to ensure that participants wash their equipment prior to traveling to the event to reduce the potential for the spread of noxious and non-native invasive weed species.

A Cultural Resource Needs Assessment would be completed prior to the event in coordination with the cultural specialist to ensure that impacts to cultural resources

are addressed and mitigated for. A Class III Cultural Resource survey would be completed for any sections of course not previously inventoried to ensure archeology resources are protected. Protection measures would include course adjustment, course marking, or other measures deemed necessary to protect cultural resources. This event would be monitored in accordance with Ely District SRP policy to ensure impacts resulting from this event in regards to weeds and soils would be mitigated. Pre- and post-course inspections would be done of the course and photo monitoring points would be taken to document the impacts.

Included as part of the proposed action are the applicable BLM permit conditions checked on the reverse side of Special Recreation Permit form 2930-1 and special stipulations attached which are made a part of the race permit. The permit and stipulations are attached as Appendix B to this environmental assessment and have been incorporated at mitigating measures inherent to the proposed action for purposes of this environmental assessment.

Alternatives Considered but Eliminated from Detailed Analysis

May 9 – July 31 Season of Use Alternative: this alternative was considered but eliminated from detailed analysis after preliminary investigation revealed that it would have similar affects as the Proposed Action. The primary reason for the shorter season of use would be to reduce conflicts with hunting resources and it was determined that affects to this resource would be similar in nature as the Proposed Action.

III. Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences

Assumptions for Analysis

For analysis purposes a number of assumptions have been made regarding the event and future events. It is assumed that the season of use for events utilizing these routes is from April 1 – October 1 and that the number of event participants will increase in number over time and that the maximum number anticipated is 100 participants and 200 spectators. The analysis is also based on event participants doing five laps per event and that all stipulations agreed to by the applicant will be followed. Due to the nature of the event and the potential for event participants to travel off of the course it is also assumed that for analysis purposes only the area of potential effect (APE) for analysis is 10 feet on either side of the road, trail, or wash analyzed for use by motorized events. Stipulations of the event still apply and participants are required to stay on existing roads and trails.

General Setting

The subject area contains primarily pinyon /juniper woodland communities, sagebrush steppe, salt desert shrub and mountain brush plant communities between approximately 4,000 feet and 6,500 feet in elevation and is typical of that found in the Great Basin/Mojave Desert convergence zone. Limestone and dolomite soils generally support the following plants which are also the primary vegetation found along the proposed course: single leaf pinyon, Utah juniper, mountain mahogany, mountain big sagebrush, bluebunch wheatgrass, black sagebrush, and some white sage. The proposed course is primarily used by OHV recreationists for trail riding and transportation purposes.

Based on the review of existing baseline data, BLM specialists have identified the following resource areas for further analysis:

- Air Quality
- Cultural Resources
- Noxious Weeds and Invasive, Non-Native Species
- Wildlife
- Threatened and Endangered Species
- Visual Resource Management
- Soils
- Recreation
- Rangeland Health and Livestock Grazing
- Vegetation
- Water Quality/Riparian
- Wild Horses

The following elements of the human environment are not present or would not be affected by the proposed action; therefore no impacts to these elements are likely and they are not discussed further in this EA: Areas of Critical Environmental Concern, environmental justice, floodplains, hazardous or solid waste, Native American religious concerns, land use authorizations, paleontological resources, minerals, prime or unique farmlands, woodland resources, wilderness, wild and scenic rivers, and wetlands.

Air Quality

Affected Environment

No state air quality monitoring sites exist within close proximity to the project area so actual air quality measurements are not available. Although actual measurements are not available the air quality within the project area would be considered good due to the remoteness of the area and lack of major pollution sources. Periodic degradation of air quality occurs due to winds blowing dust from nearby areas and occasional regional air pollution.

Environmental Consequences

No Action Alternative

Under this alternative the race would not be held. There would be no impacts to air quality resources.

Proposed Action

In association with the event there would be a temporary increase in airborne particulate matter during the course of the event. This would result in an increase in PM10 and PM2.5 particulates during the event but at unknown quantities. This increase would be temporary and would return to normal levels following the event.

Cultural Resources

Affected Environment

The potential for cultural resources in the region is moderate/high. Several sites are

known to occur in the general area of both historic and pre-historic nature. Any off-road traffic in areas where cultural resources occur would likely cause impacts to any cultural resource site or sites adjacent to the course.

Environmental Consequences

No Action Alternative

Under this alternative the event would not be held. The possibility of cultural resources being disturbed from this event would be eliminated and the resources would remain in their current state.

Proposed Action

The proposed course is adjacent to some eligible and potentially eligible sites. A cultural needs assessment has been completed for this proposed action for all sections of the proposed course. A needs assessment quantifies the risk posed to known cultural sites as it relates to a proposed action. If it is determined that a cultural site is threatened by a proposed action, mitigating actions are taken to eliminate the threat to the identified cultural site or sites. Some sections of the proposed course have been inventoried for cultural resources. All sections of the proposed course are located on previously disturbed routes including, developed roads, roads and trails where use has created surface disturbance at least 2 meters wide. Because of this, a Class III inventory would not be needed for the proposed routes. Class III inventory may be needed in certain locations if unrecorded cultural site or sites are found near the proposed course.

Mitigation measures identified to eliminate the threat of damage to identified cultural sites include: Avoidance of any routes which would directly damage cultural resources. Where avoidance of existing routes which may pose a threat to cultural sites is not possible, creation of a barrier next to the route to prevent deviation from the route into the cultural site or sites would be done. In addition, implementing stipulations agreed upon between the BLM and the permit holder that define the consequences of damaging a cultural site would be done. If damaged, the permit holder would be subject to the associated penalties. The discovery of any potential unrecorded cultural site during the event would require analysis by an archeologist to determine eligibility. If the cultural site or sites discovered are potentially eligible, stopping and or re-routing the event would be necessary.

Noxious Weeds and Invasive, Non-Native Species

Affected Environment

The BLM defines a weed as a non native plant that disrupts or has the potential to disrupt or alter the natural ecosystem function, composition and diversity of the site it occupies. A weed's presence deteriorates the health of the site, it makes efficient use of natural resources difficult, and it may interfere with management objectives for that site. It is an invasive species that requires a concerted effort (manpower and resources) to remove from its current location, if it can be removed at all. "Noxious" weeds refer to those plant species which have been legally designated as unwanted or undesirable. This includes national, state, county or local designations. No field surveys were completed for this project. Instead, the Ely District weed inventory data

was consulted. The following known non-native species are found along the course or in the area surrounding the course:

<i>Acroptilon repens</i>	Russian knapweed
<i>Ailanthus altissima</i>	Tree of Heaven
<i>Cirsium vulgare</i>	Bull Thistle
<i>Conium maculatum</i>	Poison Hemlock
<i>Lepidium draba</i>	Hoary cress
<i>Lepidium latifolium</i>	Tall whitetop
<i>Linaria dalmatica</i>	Dalmatian toadflax
<i>Onopordum acanthium</i>	Scotch thistle
<i>Tamarix spp.</i>	Salt cedar

While not officially inventoried the following non-native invasive weeds probably occur along or near portions of the race course: cheatgrass (*Bromus tectorum*), red brome (*Bromus rubens*), Russian olive (*Elaeagnus angustifolia*), Russian thistle (*Salsola kali*), halogeton (*Halogeton glomerus*), tumble mustard (*Sisymbrium altissimum*), and puncturevine (*Tribulus terrestris*). This area of the Ely District was last inventoried for weeds in 2004.

Environmental Consequences

No Action Alternative

Under this alternative a permit would not be issued for the competitive event. Possible transmission of weed populations from the proposed event would not occur.

Proposed Action

A Noxious and Invasive Weed Risk Assessment was completed for this event, resulting in a moderate rating (see Appendix C). A moderate rating indicates that “possible adverse effects on sites and possible expansion of infestation within the project area” is expected to occur” and that “preventative management measures for the proposed project to reduce the risk of introduction or spread of noxious weeds into the area” is required.

Due to the nature of the event and the tendency for vehicles to carry seeds from other sources, there is a moderate risk of areas along the course becoming infested by noxious or non-native invasive weeds. The primary concern for this project is the potential introduction of Sahara mustard (*Brassica tournefortii*) into the area from the Las Vegas area. Most of the participants will be coming from the Clark County area which is heavily infested with this noxious weed. Vehicles **must** be properly cleaned prior to racing to prevent spreading the infestation into Lincoln County.

Mitigation measures and BMPs listed in the Noxious and Invasive Weed Risk Assessment would reduce this likelihood as outlined in the event stipulations in Appendix B.

Wildlife

Affected Environment

The major wildlife populations within the event area include: big game species including mule deer (*Odocoileus hemionus*) and elk (*Cervus canadensis*) which provides yearlong habitat and may be scattered throughout portions of the race area, with greater numbers likely near water sources. Upland birds, such as chukar

(*Alectoris chukar*) and Gambel's quail (*Callipepla gambelii*), as well as a variety of migratory birds are found in this area. Cooper's Hawks (*Accipiter cooperii*) are also known to occur in the area.

Environmental Consequences

No Action Alternative

Under this alternative a special use permit would not be issued for the competitive event. No impacts to wildlife resources from this event would occur.

Proposed Action

Noise associated with the event may temporarily disperse wildlife from watering sources. There would also be a limited possibility that a vehicle rider may collide with any of these wildlife species which could cause injury or death to the rider or wildlife species. Some wildlife may be separated and dispersed from watering sources and out of wash bottoms which may expose them to a higher risk of predation by carnivores. No impacts are expected to migratory birds because of the temporary disturbance to wildlife associated with the event. Significant impacts to wildlife species in the race area are not anticipated due to the short-term nature of the event.

Special Status Species

Affected Environment

There are some special status species which exist near or within the area where the proposed course is located. Special status species near or within the proposed course include: the southwestern toad (*Bufo microscaphus*), southwestern willow flycatcher (*Empidonax traillii eximius*) (endangered), and Big Spring spinedace (*Lepidomeda mollispinis pratensis*) (threatened). Identified sensitive plant species in the area of the proposed event include Pine Valley milkvetch (*Astragalus convallarius* var. *finitimus*), long-calyx milkvetch (*Astragalus oophorus* var. *lonchocalyx*), and the Needle Mountains milkvetch (*Astragalus eurylobus*).

Environmental Consequences

No Action Alternative

Under this alternative a special use permit would not be issued for the competitive event. No chance of impacts to special status species would occur from this event.

Proposed Action

Noise associated with the competitive event may temporarily disperse any sensitive species present in the area of the event. There would also be a limited possibility that a vehicle rider may collide with one of these sensitive species which could cause injury or death to the rider or sensitive species. Sightings or contact with any of the other sensitive species would be reported to the proper personnel.

Given the application of stipulations for the event and the occurrence of the race on the main road in the Clover Wash area outside of suitable habitat for the southwestern willow flycatcher, the BLM has determined the proposed action "may affect, but is not likely to adversely affect" the southwestern willow flycatcher. Given that the event would not occur near or upstream from Condor Canyon (known location of Big Spring spinedace), there would be no effect to Big Spring spinedace. Given the

application of stipulations for the event and the location of the race on the main road in the Clover Wash area, the proposed action would not contribute to the need to list any BLM sensitive species.

Visual Resource Management

Affected Environment

The proposed course is located within areas that have been assigned a VRM classification of 2, 3, and 4. Mineral exploration, road development, erosion control, and OHV recreation have all contributed to alterations to visual resources in the area.

Environmental Consequences

No Action Alternative

Under this alternative the competitive event would not be permitted. No visual impacts related to the event would occur.

Proposed Action

The proposed action would stay within the visual resource management criteria for the area based upon mitigation measures and limiting the race to previously disturbed areas. Every attempt should be made to minimize the impact of these activities through careful location and minimal visual disturbance.

Soils

Affected Environment

The project area is located in MLRA 29, an area of broad, nearly level basins and valleys between a series of north south trending mountain ranges. The average annual precipitation is 3 to 12 inches. Soils are typically coarse textured in the mountains becoming finer textured in alluvial fans and valley bottoms. Sensitive soils in the proposed project include soils with high amounts of silt, burned areas such as Barnes Canyon, and fragile soils on the Panaca formation.

Environmental Consequences

No Action Alternative

Under this alternative the race would not be held. Erosion would continue through its natural process on the existing roads, trails, and washes and would not be accelerated from the permitted event.

Proposed Action

New erosion channels may be created by race traffic on the route in some locations. Areas such as valley bottoms with finer soil textures may become very soft and powdery during and after the event. Compaction of soils will occur, especially in finer textured soils. If the course is raced while wet, erosion and compaction could be increased further. Implementation of the special stipulations (see Appendix B) would allow for rehabilitation of any unnecessary and undue damage that occurs in relation to the event. Staying within existing maintained roads in the vicinity of the Panaca formation and Barnes Canyon will decrease negative soil effects.

Recreation

Affected Environment

Opportunities within the event area for recreation are medium to high with the majority of the use occurring by local residents. OHV use is the primary form of recreation use in this area including permitted events. The proposed action is within Wildlife Management Unit 242 and has overlap with current hunting seasons for both wild turkey and big game. The combined management units 231, 241, and 242 had 423 elk tags in 2007, 333 of which were for antlerless elk. The Spring Turkey Season for 2007 is from March 15-May 3 and the elk and deer season is from August 1 to Jan 1.

Environmental Consequences

No Action Alternative

Under this alternative the event would not be held.

Proposed Action

The race would provide an opportunity to help meet the demand for organized competitive OHV events. The event would also provide an opportunity for a group camping experience for event attendees. Pre-race and race activities potentially could disrupt game out of the hunted areas precluding quality conditions and experience for hunters during the days of those activities. The displacement and disruption of hunting opportunities from the proposed action is expected to have a minimal adverse impact because of the linear and temporary nature of the proposed action, the restriction of the event to existing roads, and an abundant amount of open public land that offers equal hunting and recreation opportunities in the Caliente Resource Area.

Mitigation measures related to recreation activities such as hunting include requiring the special recreation permit holder to repair the race route to normal driveable conditions following the event to allow for adequate public access to areas where recreation activities may occur. The BLM authorized officer determines which sections of the race route need to be repaired. See the wildlife section for information regarding impacts to wildlife as it relates to hunting opportunities.

Rangeland Health and Livestock Grazing

Affected Environment

Livestock have historically grazed throughout the event location. There are eleven different Grazing allotments that the proposed race intersects. These allotments include Oak Springs, Peck, Panaca Cattle, Buckboard, Oak Wells, Little Mountain, Clover Creek, Sawmill Canyon, Mustang Flat, Cottonwood, and Sheep Flat.. All allotments listed may be potentially actively grazed during the race event.

Rangeland health conditions for these allotments are being determined through rangeland health assessments. Health conditions are not described in depth in this document. Rangeland conditions are variable though the majority of the areas have not been grazed regularly by livestock. Of the allotments listed Sheep Flat, Oak Wells and Oak Springs are grazed regularly. Grazing use of the other allotments

varies from long term non-use to sporadic use based on fluctuating climatic conditions.

Environmental Consequences

No Action Alternative

Under this alternative the race would not be held. Livestock grazing in the area would remain undisturbed by the event. No impacts to rangeland health would occur.

Proposed Action

Under the proposed action there would be potential for cattle to be temporarily disturbed and displaced from water sources. This is a nuisance to the rancher, however, cattle can return to water and are only displaced during the event which lasts for one day. In most circumstances, there are more than one water source for livestock to use on an allotment. The short duration of the event limits the adverse effects on the operation. There would also be a chance of event participants colliding with cattle which could kill or mortally injure both the animal and/or the rider. Calves especially, are at risk as they are unaccustomed to rapidly moving vehicles and are known to dart into a vehicle rather than away from it. The permit holder and the BLM will be responsible for coordinating with the livestock permittee to mitigate livestock damage. Damage of roads used by ranchers is also possible which could temporarily impede easy travel on the allotments until roads are sufficiently rehabilitated.

Under the proposed action, rangeland health can be impacted through a variety of means including the disturbance of vegetation along roadsides, in washes and in two-track roads. The disturbed soil in these areas can create a seed bed for invasive and noxious weed species to inhabit and become established. Roughed up soil surfaces due to the event, especially on slopes, can easily erode following heavy precipitation events. Erosion displaces vegetation, exposes roots and can cause down-cutting and head cuts which can be difficult and expensive to repair. These situations are mitigated through enforcement of SRP permit terms and conditions and through adaptive management and feedback from post-race road and rangeland health monitoring.

Mitigation measures related to livestock operations include requiring the special recreation permit holder to repair the race route to normal driveable conditions following the event to allow for adequate access of the area for the public as well as the livestock permittee and coordinating with permittees. The BLM Authorized Officer determines which sections of the race route need to be repaired.

Vegetation

Affected Environment

Vegetation in the event area consists of pinyon/juniper woodland, sagebrush steppe, and salt desert shrub vegetation types. In the Meadow Valley Wash and Clover Creek Drainages riparian vegetation also exists. The race route extends through the Major Land Resource Area (MLRA) 29. The area of the race occurs in a transitional zone between the Mojave Desert and the Great Basin, though the area occurs in neither zone. Wyoming big sagebrush is the dominant vegetation throughout most of the race route. Understory vegetation can be sparse depending on the location on the

landscape and the aspect of the slope. Cheatgrass is a common understory invasive throughout the area and is easily spread in the Wyoming big sagebrush ecosystem. Perennial grasses may include squirreltail (*Elymus elemoides*), Indian ricegrass (*Achnatherum hymenoides*), bluegrass (*Poa spp.*), and needleandthread (*Hesperostipa comata*). Globemallow (*Sphaeralcea spp.*), lupine (*Lupinus spp.*), phlox (*Phlox spp.*) and blue flax (*Linum lewisii*) are common forb species in the area.

Environmental Consequences

No Action Alternative

Under this alternative the race would not be held. Vegetation would not be damaged by the proposed event.

Proposed Action

Vegetation growing within existing roads and vehicle trails used during this event would be affected by the passage of event participants. The primary impact to vegetation would be trampling of shrubs, grasses and forbs growing directly on the existing routes used for this event. Vegetation growing adjacent to the course could also be trampled and covered in fugitive dust due to the nature of the event. Informal observations have not indicated that fugitive dust has contributed to vegetation loss along this race course.

Mitigation measures associated with vegetation include permitting vehicle travel on existing roads and vehicle routes only. The race course shall be confined entirely to a clearly-defined and plainly-marked route as shown on the authorized course maps. The permit holder is required to mark the route in a clearly defined and plainly marked manner as shown on the authorized course maps as to prevent riders from leaving the designated course and cutting corners. Checkpoints are also required to avoid short-cutting of the course. Additional stipulations of the event require the permit holder to repair the race route and rehabilitate resources identified in the post race evaluation. This could but is not limited to use of unauthorized course, short cutting of course, and travel off of existing roads and trails. Rehabilitation methods would be determined by BLM resource specialists on a case by case basis. In the event that stipulations are not followed the event promoter could be placed on probation with conditional terms for reinstatement of their permit within the district. Truck and buggy events would not be permitted through recently burned areas for a period of three years following the fire to allow time for stabilization processes.

Water Quality/Riparian

Affected Environment

Portions of the course proposed for use includes existing roads within the Clover Creek and Meadow Valley Wash drainages. The road proposed for use in the Clover Creek drainage is the main bladed county road which travels through private and public land. Both of these drainages have perennial streams and associated riparian vegetation communities. Springs also exist along portions of the course proposed for use.

Environmental Consequences

No Action Alternative

Under this alternative the race would not be held. There would no impacts to water quality/riparian areas in association with the No Action Alternative.

Proposed Action

Through the proposed action the portions of the course located within and adjacent to perennial streams would result in an increase in sedimentation at unknown levels. Truck and buggy races would be limited to existed roads and would utilize existing stream crossings.

Mitigation measures associated with water quality/riparian includes permitting vehicle travel only on existing roads and vehicle routes. The permit holder is required to mark the route adequately as to prevent riders from leaving the designated course. If riders leave the course springs could be affected negatively. Additional stipulations of the event require the permit holder to repair the race route and rehabilitate resources identified in the post race evaluation.

Wild Horses

Affected Environment

The courses proposed for use occur within portions of the following Herd Management Area (HMA); Miller Flat, Little Mountain, Clover Creek, and Clover Mountains.

Environmental Consequences

No Action Alternative

Under this alternative the event would not be held. Horses in the area would remain undisturbed by the event.

Proposed Action

Wild horses may be temporarily impacted or displaced from their habitat by human noise and disturbance associated with the event, or due to their curious nature they may investigate and observe what is being done by humans. It is anticipated that the horses will keep a distance away from the event participants during the event, but after the event is complete it is likely that any of the horses that have been using the area will return. Once the event is finished and all clean up is completed, the horses should return to their normal routines.

Mitigation measures related to wild horses includes advising event contestants of Wild Horses in the area and if noticed not to harass them.

IV. Cumulative Impacts

According to the BLM handbook Guidelines for Accessing and Documenting Cumulative Impacts (1994), the analysis can be focused on those issues and resource values identified during scoping that are of major importance. The issue and resource values of major importance or public concern, which would be analyzed for cumulative impacts, include Cultural Resources, Noxious Weeds and Invasive, Non-Native Species, Wildlife, Special Status Species, Soils, Rangeland health and livestock grazing, Vegetation, Water Quality/Riparian.

Cumulative impacts result from the incremental impact of the action when added to other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions, regardless of what agency or person undertakes such other actions. Cumulative impacts could result from individually minor, but collectively significant actions, taking place over a period of time (Council on Environmental Quality, Regulations for Implementation of NEPA, 1508.7).

The cumulative effects study area (CESA) is a five mile radius around the area where the proposed action would take place. A general discussion of past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions follows:

Past Actions

Approximately 75 short term motorized events both competitive and non-competitive including trucks and motorcycles have occurred within the cumulative effects study area between 1990 and 2005. Some portions of the proposed course were used on various years during some of these events, the most recent being the 2008 NV 200 Motorcycle Trail Ride. This same course was used in 2007 by SNORE racing group. Within the CESA there are six horse management areas and 28 grazing allotments that have all been active in the past. Recreation, particularly off-highway vehicle use, has been a popular activity within the CESA and has increased in recent years as tourism increases within the county as a whole. Travel designations within the CESA has been 'open' to cross country travel which has contributed to an increase in user created trails throughout the CESA. These user created trails combined with permitted events have contributed to site specific incremental increases in soil erosion and vegetation loss. Hunting, both big game and game birds has been a popular activity in the area. Other activities such as wood cutting also occur within the CESA but at undeterminable levels. Severe floods in 2005 affected this area which altered the stream channel and vegetation in Clover Creek.

Present Actions

Grazing within the 28 grazing allotments currently occurs although several are currently in non-use status. Recreation, particularly off-highway vehicle use, continues to be a popular activity within the CESA. Currently, the district is open to cross-country travel. This use continues to contribute to incremental increases in soil erosion. Permitted activities are no longer allowed to travel cross-country reducing the impacts to soils and vegetation associated with these types of activities. The BLM has received six applications for special recreation permits for 2008 within the CESA. These are a combination of motorcycle races, motorcycle trail rides, and truck and buggy races. Hunting of both big-game and game birds continue to be popular activities within the CESA. This has also led to the creation of user created trails which has contributed to the amount of routes currently available to dispersed off-highway vehicle use. The user created trails created through past activities as well as the trails created through permitted activities has contributed to the current levels of off-highway vehicle use. Other recreation activities presently occurring include hiking, cultural tourism, and horseback riding. Levels and extent of casual non-permitted recreation activities is largely unknown.

Reasonably Foreseeable Actions

Reasonably foreseeable future actions include continued use of the area for livestock grazing, wildlife habitat, wild horse habitat, dispersed recreation, and permitted recreation activities. While livestock grazing is expected to continue, adjustments in season of use or numbers of livestock may be made periodically to improve range conditions. Range improvements such as water developments or pasture fences, could be installed to facilitate the grazing program.

Wildlife use is likely to continue. Habitat improvements are planned for the area.

Management of wild horses is also likely to continue. The implementation of grazing plans and revisions based on allotment monitoring is expected to improve the range condition. Any improvement in the range condition would lessen the impacts of surface disturbance on the livestock, wildlife, and wild horses.

Permitted recreation activities are anticipated to occur in the future within this area. The proposed action in the November 2007 Ely Proposed Resource Management Plan/Final Environmental Impact Statement identifies limiting truck and buggy courses to four within the district and three events per year within the district. The CESA is also within the Caliente Motorcycle Special Recreation Permit Area as identified within this same document. This plan would also limit travel to existing and designated travel routes. Dispersed recreation activities including off-highway vehicle use is also anticipated to increase within this area as the local communities continue to promote outdoor recreation and the southern portion of the state continues to experience population growth. Reasonable Foreseeable actions include: preparation and completion of planning documents directed by the new Ely BLM district Resource Management Plan, which will direct and influence how the public uses the area regarding recreation, development, and land sales and transfers into the future. Other reasonably foreseeable actions include the Yucca Mountain rail line and the selling and or transfer of ownership of public lands to private land.

Cumulative Impacts

In accordance with the guidance document, "Considering Cumulative Effects Under the National Environmental Policy Act" (CEQ, 1997), the cumulative effects issues and resources associated with the SNORE Truck and Buggy Race identified for further consideration in this EA include:

- Cultural
- Noxious Weeds and Invasive, Non-Native Species
- Wildlife
- Special Status Species
- Soils
- Rangeland Health and Livestock Grazing
- Vegetation
- Water Quality/Riparian

Cultural Resources

All sections of the proposed course are located on previously disturbed routes including, developed roads, roads and trails where use has created surface disturbance

at least 2 meters wide. If it is determined that a cultural site is threatened by a proposed action, mitigating actions are taken to eliminate the threat to the identified cultural site or sites. Mitigation measures identified to eliminate the threat of damage to identified cultural sites include: Avoidance of any routes which would directly damage cultural resources. Where avoidance of existing routes which may pose a threat to cultural sites is not possible, creation of a barrier next to the route to prevent deviation from the route into the cultural site or sites would be done. In addition, implementing stipulations agreed upon between the BLM and the permit holder that define the consequences of damaging a cultural site would be done.

Generally, impacts to cultural resources in the CESA have been relatively low key, resulting from ranching, wildfires, dispersed recreation, permitted recreation activities, and unauthorized removal of archaeological artifacts. Reasonably foreseeable actions are not expected to differ much for the past and the impacts of the current project, if performed in compliance with the SOPS should be cumulatively negligible.

Noxious Weeds and Invasive, Non-Native Species

Past and present actions may have introduced and contributed to the spread of invasive, nonnative species within the CESA, and the same may be expected from the reasonable foreseeable future actions. Mitigation measures for all other actions would aid in reducing potential adverse effects. The proposed action may cause incremental increases in noxious weeds, however participants washing vehicles before and after the event and limiting events to previously disturbed sites would minimize this potential. Noxious weeds and invasive non-native species could increase within the CESA in spite of best management practices and standard operating procedures that would be in place for all potential activities.

Wildlife

The cumulative impact on wildlife from the incremental impact of the proposed action when added to other actions is a contribution to the temporary displacement of wildlife species. Particularly other permitted events in the area, dispersed recreation, and hunting all contribute to the temporary displacement of wildlife in the immediate vicinity of routes utilized for travel and events. This could result in an increase in predation by carnivores and the relocation of wildlife to nearby areas that may be less suitable habitat. Cumulative impacts to wildlife populations in regards to biological costs and reproductive fitness is indeterminable

Special Status Species

The cumulative impact on special status species from the incremental impact of the proposed action when added to other actions is a contribution to the temporary displacement of the southwestern willow flycatcher. Restricting events to the main road within Clover Wash and the restriction of off-highway vehicle travel to designated routes would minimize the level of displacement and trampling of suitable habitat.

Soils

Past and present actions have contributed to the creation of additional roads and trails within the CESA boundary which has resulted in erosion channels in certain locations, compaction of soils, and the creating of soft and powdery roads and trails within areas of finer soil textures. The location of past permitted events will continue to influence the location of future permitted events and would continue to have

similar impacts. Reasonably foreseeable future actions associated with the implementation of a new land-use plan would reduce these impacts by limiting the number of truck and buggy races, locating course for use on more sustainable soils types, and limiting the number of course allowed for this type of use. This course would be consistent with the implementation of the new land-use plan. Limiting travel to designated routes would also reduce or minimize increases in impacts to soils. By following best management practices and standard operating procedures for all activities within the CESA adverse impacts to soil resources would be minimized.

Rangeland Health and Livestock Grazing

Past and present actions have contributed to disruptions to grazing management and loss of available forage. This includes the permitting of recreation activities, dispersed recreation activities, wildlife management, and wild horse management. The proposed Yucca Mountain rail line is anticipated to disrupt grazing practices and create a loss of AUMs. Stipulations associated with the event and the coordinating of events with grazing permittees for this event would minimize the amount of disruptions to grazing operations and rangeland health and would not contribute to overall impacts.

Vegetation

The impact of this action combined with other actions would remain low because of the limited disturbance from the proposed action and other actions within the CESA as well as the implementation of best management practices, standard operating procedures, and stipulations tied to events.

Water Quality/Riparian

Recreation, livestock management, wild horse management, and wildlife management are the past, present, and reasonable foreseeable future actions that have and could contribute to water quality/riparian resources within the CESA. Watershed health assessments and actions taken through those would reduce the cumulative impact to water quality/riparian resources. Stipulations with the event and the limiting of the event to the main access road through Clover Creek would also limit cumulative impacts. Actions taken out of the land-use management plan in regards to recreation, off-highway vehicles, and special recreation permits will contribute to reducing impacts to water quality/riparian resources.

V. Proposed Mitigation

Mitigation measures incorporated into the proposed action and stipulations applied to the event are sufficient, based on the analysis of environmental consequences no additional mitigation is proposed.

VI. Suggested Monitoring

Monitoring measures incorporated into the proposed action current BLM policy regarding special recreation permits are sufficient, based on the analysis of environmental consequences and the stipulated rules agreed upon by the applicant and the BLM, no additional monitoring is proposed.

VII. Consultation, Coordination, and List of Preparers

Consultation and coordination

BLM Specialists assigned and consulted with regarding the proposed action include:

Kari Harrison, Soil, Air and Water Quality
Shirley Johnson, Rangeland Management Specialist
Bonnie Waggoner, Noxious & Non-Native, Invasive Weeds
Alicia Styles, Wildlife Biologist
Lynn Wulf, Archeologist
Dave Jacobson, Wilderness
Kalem Lenard, VRM and Recreation
Elvis Wall, Tribal Coordination
Joe David, NEPA Specialist

Public Involvement

This document was released for public comment and review on the BLM website for 15 days. A letter was sent out to interested and affected parties notifying them of the proposal and the comment period.

VIII. References

Lincoln County Public Land and Natural Resource Management Plan, 1997

Ely Proposed Resource Management Plan/Final Environmental Impact Statement, 2007

Comments from the resource specialists listed above.

United States Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Decision Record
FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT
DECISION RECORD
SNORE Truck and Buggy Race
Environmental Assessment
NV-040-08-15
Permit Number
NV-040-08-03

Introduction

The proposed action is in response to a request for application to grant a special recreation permit to Don Wall with the Southern Nevada Off-Road Enthusiasts to hold a race on May 10, 2008 and varying dates between the months of April and October for years to come. This event would provide an organized racing opportunity for the public and club members. The proposed race course would be approximately 46 miles in length and is located entirely on existing roads, trails, washes and previously disturbed areas. An additional 102 miles of existing roads and trails would also be allowed for competitive use as alternatives to this course for future events. The proposed course is located on predominantly BLM managed public land in Lincoln County, with small sections of the proposed course crossing through private land. For the portions of course which cross private land, the proponent is required to obtain permission letters from affected private land owners. It is required by the BLM that the proponent supply a copy of any permission letters to the BLM before a permit is issued for the event. The proposed course is located on prior course segments analyzed in previous Environmental Assessments. It has been determined that an updated analysis of the proposed action was necessary to proceed with issuing this permit. All portions of the course are on existing roads, trails and washes. No cross country travel will be authorized.

Finding of No Significant Impact

I have reviewed Environmental Assessment (EA) NV-040-08-15, dated April, 2008. After consideration of the environmental impacts as described in the EA, and incorporated herein, I have determined that the proposed actions with the standard operating procedures as described in the EA will not significantly affect the quality of the human environment and that an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is not required to be prepared. This finding and conclusion is based on my consideration of the Council on Environmental Quality's (CEQ) criteria for significance (40 Code of Federal Regulations 1508.27), both with regard to the context and the intensity of impacts described in the EA. I have determined the proposed action is in conformance with the Caliente Management Framework Plan.

Context:

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has the authority under the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 United States Code 1701 et seq.) (FLPMA)

Intensity:

1) *Impacts that may be both beneficial and adverse:*

No significant impacts were noted after the completion of similar OHV events. The proposed action will result in improved economics and tourism of the surrounding communities. Any negative effects caused by the proposed action are thought to be short

term and temporary. Negative effects such as damaged roads are required to be repaired as part of the special stipulations that the permit holder agrees to.

2) *The degree to which the proposed action affects public health or safety:*

The proposed action will not have significant negative effects to public health and safety. Coordination with county entities and stipulations to minimize any negative effects to the public health and safety of the area are agreed upon by the permit holder. The spread of invasive, non-native species would be minimal and not significant as identified by the weeds risk assessment completed for this event. Stipulations requiring the permittee to implement practices to prevent the spread of noxious weeds would be attached to the permit, and field inspectors would ensure that the stipulations are followed.

3) *Unique characteristics of the geographic area such as proximity to historical or cultural resources, parks lands, prime farmlands, wetlands, wild and scenic rivers, or ecologically critical areas:*

The project area is representative of the Great Basin and Mojave systems. No significant impacts are anticipated from the proposed action to floodplains, wetlands, and riparian areas; wilderness values, ACECs, and wild and scenic rivers; Visual Resource Management; cultural, Paleontological, and historical resource values; prime or unique farmlands; environmental justice; water quality (drinking/ground); Native American religious concerns; or migratory birds.

4) *The degree to which the effects on the quality of the human environment are likely to be highly controversial:*

The effects of organized events such as this are well known and documented and are not highly controversial. Stipulations are agreed upon by the permit holder to enable any negative effects from the event to be minimized and rehabilitated.

5) *The degree to which the possible effects on the human environment are highly uncertain or involve unique or unknown risks:*

There are no known effects of the proposed action which are considered uncertain or involve unique or unknown risks.

6) *The degree to which the action may establish a precedent for future actions with significant effects or represents a decision in principle about a future consideration:*

The proposed action does not establish a precedent for future actions with significant effects and does not represent a decision in principle about a future consideration. All future similar events would be subject to the same environmental assessment standards and independent decision making.

7) *Whether the action is related to other actions with individually insignificant, but cumulatively significant impacts:* Based on the conditions set forth in this Finding of No Significant Impact, no significant impacts will occur due to the proposed action. The subsequent land use would be regulated by local, state, and federal regulations as applicable; therefore, no significantly cumulative impacts are anticipated.

8) *The degree to which the action may adversely affect districts, sites, highways, structures, or objects listed in or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places or may cause loss or destruction of significant scientific, cultural, or historic resources:*

The proposed action will not cause the loss or destruction of significant scientific, cultural or historical resources. A cultural needs assessment was completed for this

event to determine the threat the proposed action would pose to cultural and historical resources. Mitigation actions identified to ensure cultural or historical resources would not be damaged include avoidance through rerouting the proposed course and barriers to prevent off-road travel into any cultural sites near the proposed routes.

9) *The degree to which the action may adversely affect an endangered or threatened species or its habitat that has been determined to be critical under the Endangered Species Act of 1973:*

The EA has identified that no significant or adverse impacts would result to a threatened or endangered species from implementing the proposed action.

10) *Whether the action threatens a violation of Federal, State, local or tribal law or requirements imposed for the protection of the environment:* This action is consistent with federal, state, local, and tribal laws and other requirements for the protection of the environment. The proposed action will not violate or threaten to violate any Federal, State, or local law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment.

Decision Record

I have reviewed Environmental Assessment (EA) NV-040-08-15, dated April, 2008. I have determined the proposed action is in conformance with the approved Caliente Management Framework Plan. It is my decision to implement the proposal as described, subject to the attached permit conditions, special stipulations. I hereby approve this proposal which was mitigated through route planning procedures, and requirements contained in permit conditions and special stipulations which are included as part of this decision. This decision is effective on the date of signature.

Rationale for Decision

Approval of this proposal will allow the applicant to conduct the race, which is a legitimate, multiple use activity that will result in no significant impact to important resource values.

Public Involvement

This document was made available for public review for 15 days on the BLM Ely district website and a letter was sent out to interested and affected parties notifying them of the proposal and the comment period. One comment letter was received.

Responses to Comments Received

1. The No Action Alternative does not adequately reflect what a non action would actually be.
 - Based on CEQ guidance the No Action Alternative should reflect the absence of the Proposed Action. The No Action Alternative analyzed in the Environmental Assessment adequately identifies the conditions with the absence of the Proposed Action.
2. There is not adequate analysis of conflicts with other forms of recreation, particularly hunting.
 - The Environmental Assessment was modified with a more detailed analysis of impacts to conflicts with hunting recreation.
3. It is unclear how the proposed action was determined consistent with appropriate Land Use Plans.
 - The section was modified for clarity regarding conformance.
4. It is not clear where washing of vehicles would occur prior to the event.

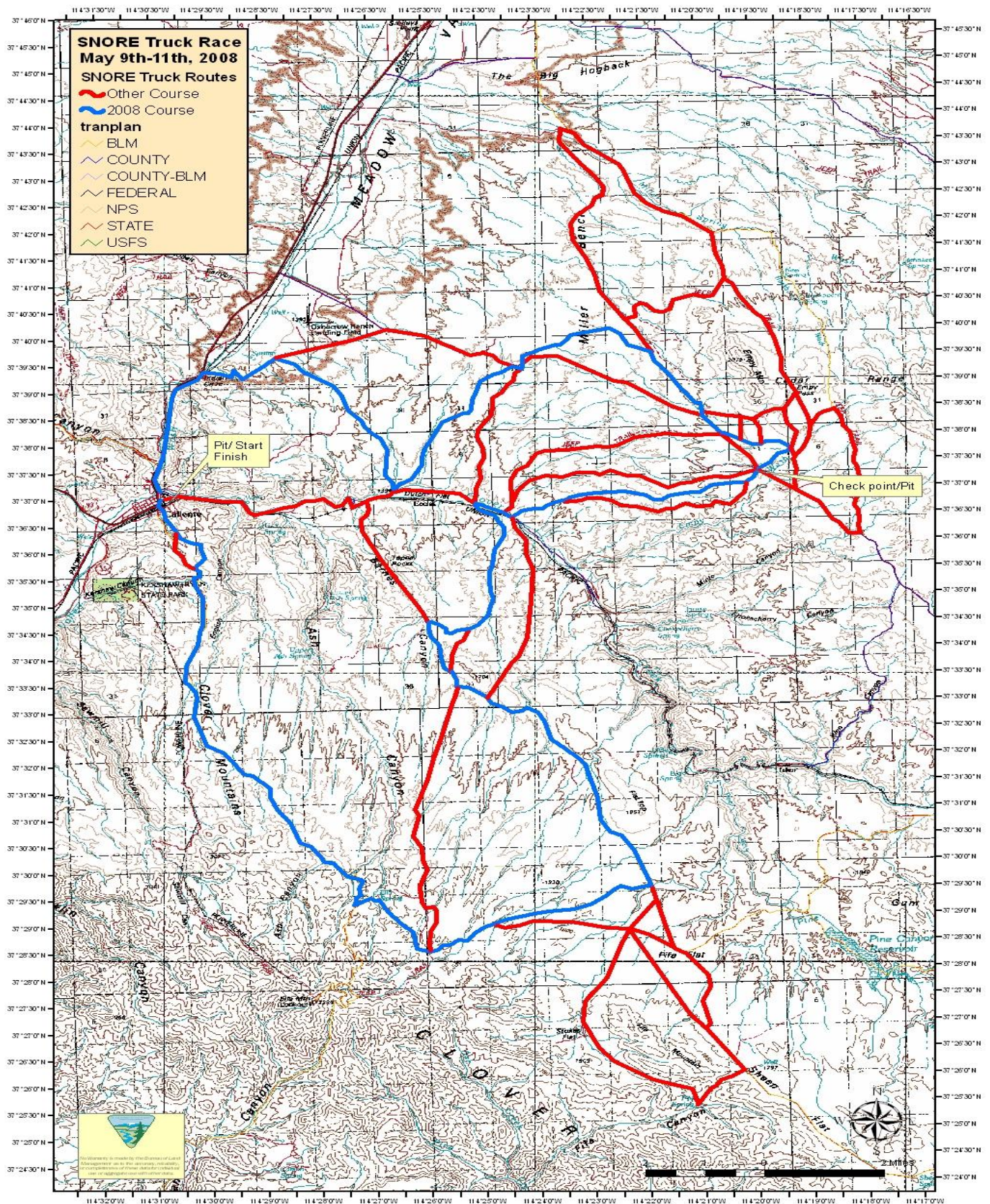
- To proposed action was modified for clarity.
- 5. There is not clear distinction between the Proposed Action and other events currently under application for the 2008 season.
 - This is addressed in the cumulative impact section.
- 6. Is reference to "the trail ride" correct?
 - The sentence was modified for clarity.
- 7. Are there impacts to vegetation from fugitive dust associated with the Proposed Action?
 - The Vegetation analysis section was modified to include this in the analysis.
- 8. Are cumulative impacts to wildlife in terms of biological costs significant?
 - The section was modified to clarify the cumulative impacts to wildlife resources.
- 9. Is the Proposed Action consistent with reasonably foreseeable actions in regards to cumulative impacts to soil resources?
 - The section was modified to clarify the consistency of the Proposed Action with reasonably foreseeable future actions.
- 10. Page 16, Vegetation Comment
- 11. Proposed Mitigation is not adequate due to the lack of analysis to other recreation resources.
 - The Environmental Assessment was modified with a more detailed analysis of impacts to conflicts with hunting recreation.
- 12. An analysis of an additional alternative with a modified season of use should be included in the analysis.
 - The modified season of use was included in the analysis in the Alternatives Considered but Eliminated from Further Analysis section.


Michael Herder

 Acting District Manager

5-2-08
Date

Appendix A – Map



APPENDIX B - Stipulations

1. This permit is issued for the period specified. It is revocable for any breach of conditions or at the discretion of the Bureau of Land Management, at any time upon notice. This permit is subject to valid adverse claims heretofore or hereafter acquired.
2. This permit is subject to all applicable provisions of the regulations (43 CFR Group 2930).
3. This permit is subject to the provisions of Executive Order No. 11246 of September 24, 1965, as amended, which sets forth the Equal Opportunity clauses. A copy of this order may be obtained from the BLM.
4. This permit may not be reassigned or transferred by permittee.
5. Permittee must pay the sum of estimated user fees in advance of permit issuance. Adjustments to user fee charges will be based on actual use reported on the Post Use Report.
6. Permittee must observe all Federal, State, and local laws and regulations applicable to the premises; to erection or maintenance of signs or advertising displays including the regulations for the protection of game birds and animals, and must keep the premises in a neat, orderly manner, and sanitary condition.
7. Permittee must take all reasonable precautions to prevent and suppress forest, brush, and grass fires, and to prevent polluting of waters on or in vicinity of the public lands.
8. Permittee must not enclose roads or trails commonly in public use.
9. Permittee must pay the United States for any damage to its property resulting from this use.
10. Permittee must notify the BLM of address change immediately.
11. Permittee must not cut any timber on the public lands without prior written permission from the BLM.
12. Permittee must indemnify, defend, and hold harmless the United States and/or its agencies and representatives against and from any and all demands, claims, or liabilities of every nature whatsoever, including, but not limited to, damages to property, injuries to or death of persons, arising directly or indirectly from, or in any way connected with the permittee's use and occupancy of the public lands described in this permit or with the event authorized under this permit.
13. Authorized representatives of the Department of the Interior, other Federal agencies, and game wardens must at all times, have the right to enter the premises on official business.
14. Permittee must abide by all special stipulations attached.
15. Permittee must not disturb archeological and historical values, including, but not limited to, petroglyphs, ruins, historic buildings, and artifacts.
16. Permittee must leave in place any hidden cultural values uncovered through authorized operations.
17. The permittee shall comply with all Federal, State, County and local governmental agencies having jurisdiction, ordinances, regulations, orders, postings, or written requirements applicable to the area or operations covered by the special recreation permit. The permittee must contact and receive concurrence and license, where required, from all other federal, state, county and local governmental agencies having jurisdiction. The permittee shall ensure that all persons operating under the authorization have obtained all required Federal, State, and local licenses or registrations. The permittee shall make every reasonable effort to ensure compliance with these requirements by all agents of the permittee and by all clients or customers under the permittee's supervision.
18. A SRP represents a nonexclusive privilege authorizing special uses of the public lands and related waters and, should circumstances warrant, the permit may be modified by the BLM at any time, including the amount of use. The authorized officer may suspend a SRP if necessary to protect public resources, health, safety, the environment, or in the event of noncompliance with permit stipulations.
19. No value shall be assigned to or claimed for the permit, or for the occupancy or use of Federal lands or related waters granted thereupon. The permit privileges are not to be considered property on which the permittee shall be entitled to earn or receive any return, income, price or compensation. The use of a permit as collateral is not recognized by the BLM.
20. A SRP only authorizes the use, for the time and in the area, as specifically described therein.

21. Unless expressly stated, the SRP does not create an exclusive right of use of an area by the permittee. The permittee shall not interfere with other valid uses of the Federal land by other users. The United States reserves the right to use any part of the area for any purpose.
22. The permittee may not assign or sublease any portion of the permit authorization or interest therein, directly or indirectly, voluntarily or involuntarily. However, contracting of equipment or services may be approved by the authorized officer in advance, if necessary, to supplement a permittee's operations. Permit use is not considered here to be a "service" and cannot be contracted. Such contracting should not constitute more than half the required equipment or services. If equipment or services (excludes use under permit) are contracted, the permittee shall continue to be responsible for compliance with all stipulations and conditions of the permit.
23. All advertising and representations made to the public and the authorized officer must be accurate. Although the addresses and telephone numbers of the BLM may be included in advertising materials, official agency symbols may not be used. The permittee shall not use advertising that attempts to portray or represent the activities as being conducted by the BLM. The permittee may not portray or represent the permit fee as a special Federal users tax. The permittee must furnish the authorized officer with any current brochure and price list.
24. The permittee must assume responsibility for inspecting the permitted area for any existing or new hazardous conditions, e.g., land slides, avalanches, rocks, changing water or weather conditions, falling limbs or trees, submerged objects, hazardous wildlife, or other hazards that present risks for which the permittee assumes responsibility.
25. Unless specifically authorized, a SRP does not authorize the permittee to erect, construct, or place any building, structure, or other fixture on the public lands. Any use of the public lands is subject to the condition that upon leaving, the lands must be restored as nearly as possible to preexisting conditions.
26. The permittee must present or display a copy of the special recreation permit to a participant, authorized officer's representative, or law enforcement personnel upon request.
27. The authorized officer, or other duly authorized representative of the BLM, may examine any of the records or other documents related to the permit, the permittee or the permittee's operator, employee, or agent for up to 3 years after the expiration of the permit.
28. Trash, food items and race-related litter shall be promptly contained and removed from the race area immediately upon completion of the event. The permittee shall dispose of refuse resulting from the permitted use, including flagging, signs, waste materials, garbage, and rubbish of all kinds, and shall guard the purity of streams and other surface waters.
29. The race course shall be confined entirely to a clearly-defined and plainly-marked route as shown on the authorized course maps, consisting of existing roads, washes, old courses and trails. Passing shall be limited to the disturbed areas of these roads, washes, old courses and trails. Passing is not permitted in vegetated areas adjacent to the course. The maximum allowable width of the course shall be no greater than (10) ten feet. Pre-running of the course will not be allowed.
30. The race course and pit area shall be confined entirely to disturbed areas only. The boundaries shall be clearly marked and monitored to the extent necessary to restrict pit crews/spectators and others to the confines of the designated pit and start/finish areas. All course workers must stay in areas assigned. Stakes, flagging materials, equipment, temporary facilities, and all other event-related materials must be removed after the event. The permittee will be responsible for marking the race course and boundaries of spectator parking and pit areas to the satisfaction of the authorized officer. The permittee will not mark the course by painting rocks or plants or other land features.
31. The permittee shall do everything possible to insure that race participants and spectators do not harass or collect wildlife, plants, or livestock.
32. Race officials shall monitor the race to prevent damage from course cutting and participants traveling off course. The permittee shall establish race course checkpoints to prevent short-coursing. Any rider caught short-coursing or passing in no passing areas will be disqualified by race officials. The permittee will be responsible for keeping contestants on the designated route/course. Participants who violate any of the mitigation measures or stipulations shall be disqualified from the race. Additionally, any support personnel or spectators found in violation of the stipulations, associated with a rider or riders shall result in the disqualification of that rider or riders. The permittee will be responsible for public safety in the event area.
33. The permittee is required to post warning signs, at all known mine shafts and other hazardous areas which occur within 100 feet of the race course or pit/spectator area and will verbally inform race participants of all hazards at the pre-race meeting.
34. All children and animals of course workers shall be limited to their designated area only.

35. **Recreation Use Permit First Aid Stipulation for OHV events involving enclosed canopy motor vehicles (Truck and buggy races, and movie stunts):** Permittee shall insure the provision of first aid services capable of locating, rendering aid to, and evacuating any accident victim. First aid service shall include an ambulance unit which is dedicated to the event and has no public call response responsibility, and is permitted by the local authority having jurisdiction. (Use of a public entity is permitted where no suitable private services capable of being event dedicated are available or located within 100 miles of the main event site.) This unit shall only be acceptable if staffed and equipped to the local standards as prescribed by the authority having jurisdiction. A means of suppression of a fire in an incipient stage, and for the extraction of victims from within a motor vehicle must be provided, and remain dedicated to the event. This includes the provision of a hydraulically operated gas or electric powered tool system for the cutting and spreading operations related to victim extrication from vehicles. A reliable means for the first aid provider to contact emergency dispatch centers shall be required. Additionally, the permittee will arrange with the local Emergency Medical Service/Hospital for coordination of emergency services.

36. Staking, flagging materials, equipment, temporary facilities, litter and all other event related materials will be removed by the permittee within 15 working days following the event.

37. The race start will start in intervals, depending on class. Mass starts will be held on private ground or in approved sandy soil areas only.

38. The permittee shall make every effort to repair the race route to normal driveable conditions following the event. A Post Race Evaluation of the course will be completed by the Authorized Officer. Upon inspection, a determination will be made on which portions of the course, if any, need to be rehabilitated. The permittee will be required to completely rehabilitate resources listed in the Post Race Evaluation within 45 days of receiving the Post Race Evaluation.

39. This permit does not give permission to cross over or use any private lands during the event. The permittee will be fully responsible for all trespass on and/or damages to private land which result from the conduct of the event.

40. The use of improved trails on BLM land is permitted, but the right to use county, state or federal roads crossing BLM lands is neither granted, nor implied by the issuance of this permit.

41. The permittee will be responsible for the prompt repair of any race-related damages to utilities and related improvements to a condition which is at least as good as the condition just prior to the race. The permittee will be responsible for the repair and/or restoration of any improvements placed on public lands by BLM or its authorized users that may be damaged as a result of the event.

42. The permittee shall be responsible for ensuring that adequate sanitation facilities for participants and spectators are provided.

43. The permittee shall complete the post-race portion of the permit and return it to the Ely Field Office within fifteen (15) calendar days of the completion of the event. In addition, the permittee will immediately notify the Field Manager, or his Authorized Officer of any serious injuries or fatalities which occur in connection with the event. A written incident report will be submitted with the completed post-race portion of the permit. The Ely Field Office will provide a permittee incident report form which details all necessary information to be furnished for any serious injuries or accidents.

44. The permittee will do everything reasonable, both independently and/or upon request of the Authorized Officer, to prevent or suppress fires caused by the race or related activities on or near the lands utilized. Compensation may be required of the permittee for Federal, State, or private interests in suppression and rehabilitation expenses.

45. Use Fees shall be calculated at 3% of the adjusted gross fees collected or \$4.00 per event participant, whichever is greater. Gross receipts include the total income which has been generated from the permitted activity (on public lands) before deducting costs such as insurance, prizes, other permit or license fees, etc. Gross receipts would also include total supplemental monies collected through sponsor contributions, other donations, the sale of clothing, specialized equipment, or food or beverages (on public lands) when sold on an incidental basis at the permitted activity. Use Fees must be paid within (15) days following the event. If a Special Recreation Permit Application fee (\$80.00) has been charged in advance it will be deducted from the adjusted gross fees.

46. The permittee is responsible for clean-up and assumes liability for any and all releases of hazardous substances and or oil (more than one quart) disposed on public land as defined in the National Oil and Hazardous Substances Contingency Plan (40 CFR 300). Permittee will immediately notify the BLM Authorized Officer of any and all releases of hazardous substances and or oil (more than one quart) on public land.

47. The permittee will inform all event participants and staff that collection, excavation or vandalism of archaeological artifacts or sites is illegal on public land. Collection or disturbance of artifacts and other archaeological, historical, and materials by the permit holder, its representatives, employees, or event participants shall not be allowed. Offenders shall be subject to prosecution under the appropriate State and Federal laws.

48. Should any cultural resource (historic or pre-historic site or object) be discovered by the permit holder, representatives, or event participants on public or Federal land shall be immediately reported to the Authorized Officer. The permit holder must stop all activities in the discovery vicinity, protect the discovery and notify the BLM Authorized Officer immediately upon discovery of archaeological artifacts or human remains. To determine the appropriate actions to follow to prevent the loss of significant cultural or scientific values, event activities in the discovery vicinity must cease until written authorization to proceed is issued by the Authorized Officer.

49. The permittee shall comply with 43 CFR 7.18 and shall not make available to the public any information concerning the nature and location of any archaeological resource.

50. The permittee will be responsible for the cost of the evaluation of cultural resources impacted by event or participant activities. Any decision as to proper mitigation measures to be taken will be made by the Authorized Officer, in consultation with resource specialists.

*Non-compliance with any above permit stipulation will be grounds for denial of future permits, and/or race cancellation.

Performance evaluation, violations, and penalties:

Performance will be based upon:

- 1) Stipulation and Operating Plan Compliance;
- 2) Protection of Resource Values; and
- 3) Quality and safety of services provided to the public.

Performance levels are:

A= Acceptable: Permittee is in compliance with permit stipulations; has taken prompt steps to rectify any performance issues and complaints; does not repeatedly violate conditions, or show a disregard for stipulations.

P= Probationary: Where there has been repeated violations or a disregard for permit stipulations, the permittee will be placed in probationary status.

U= Unacceptable: Permittee willfully and/or repeatedly violated permit conditions to provide substandard service to the public. Conduct is lacking in reasonableness or responsibility to the point that it becomes reckless or negligent.

Violations and Penalties

A= Complaints and issues may be discussed over the phone or in writing. When due dates or completion dates are established, the permittee will be afforded a 15 day grace period, unless otherwise specified.

P= A notice on Noncompliance (Notice) will be issued by the Authorized Officer specifying in what respect the permittee has failed to comply, the terms of the probationary status, and the consequences of further noncompliance.

U= Permit privileges would be revoked for one to three years.

A notice of Noncompliance and Decision to Terminate permit privileges would be issued by the Authorized Officer. The permittee would be allowed the opportunity to appeal the decision under Title 43 CFR, Part 4.

Critical Standards - a breach of critical standards can lead directly to administrative penalties, suspension or revocation of a permit. Critical standards are necessary for the health and welfare of the public and protection of resources.

The permit shall be suspended or revoked if required State or local licenses pertaining to public health and safety are revoked.

Violation of mandatory Federal or State safety requirements will result in probationary status or loss of permit privileges.

The conviction of a violation of any Federal or State law or regulation concerning the conservation or protection of natural resources, the environment, endangered species or antiquities that is related to permit operations will result in probationary status or loss of permit privileges.

I HAVE READ, UNDERSTAND AND AGREE TO ABIDE BY THESE PERMIT CONDITIONS AND SPECIAL STIPULATIONS. I HAVE THE AUTHORITY TO OBLIGATE THIS ORGANIZATION TO THE ABOVE REQUIREMENTS.

SIGNATURE

DATE

APPENDIX C – Noxious & Invasive Weed Risk Assessment

RISK ASSESSMENT FOR NOXIOUS & INVASIVE WEEDS

2008 SNORE Truck Race

Lincoln County, Nevada

On March 10, 2008 a Noxious and Invasive Weed Risk Assessment was completed for the 2008 SNORE Truck and Buggy Race in Lincoln County, NV. On May 9th-11th, 2008 SNORE will be holding their annual competitive truck and buggy race that takes place outside of Caliente, Nevada. The start/finish area will be on private land in Caliente. The event would be held on existing roads that have been previously used for truck and buggy race course. An estimated 50 event participants and 250 spectators or pit crew members are expected for this event. The majority of the race would take place on public lands. The race proponent has coordinated this proposal with Lincoln County and the livestock grazing permittees. No jetting loop for tuning up of race vehicles would be provided for this event, nor would this activity be allowed by the event sponsor.

No field surveys were completed for this project. Instead, the Ely District weed inventory data was consulted. The following known non-native species are found along the course or in the area surrounding the course:

<i>Acroptilon repens</i>	Russian knapweed
<i>Ailanthus altissima</i>	Tree of Heaven
<i>Cirsium vulgare</i>	Bull Thistle
<i>Conium maculatum</i>	Poison Hemlock
<i>Lepidium draba</i>	Hoary cress
<i>Lepidium latifolium</i>	Tall whitetop
<i>Linaria dalmatica</i>	Dalmatian toadflax
<i>Onopordum acanthium</i>	Scotch thistle
<i>Tamarix spp.</i>	Salt cedar

While not officially inventoried the following non-native invasive weeds probably occur along or near portions of the race course: cheatgrass (*Bromus tectorum*), red brome (*Bromus rubens*), Russian olive (*Elaeagnus angustifolia*), Russian thistle (*Salsola kali*), halogeton (*Halogeton glomerus*), tumble mustard (*Sisymbrium altissimum*), and puncturevine (*Tribulus terrestris*). This area of the Ely District was last inventoried for weeds in 2004.

Factor 1 assesses the likelihood of noxious/invasive weed species spreading to the project area.

None (0)	Noxious weed species are not located within or adjacent to the project area. Project activity is not likely to result in the establishment of noxious weed species in the project area.
Low (1-3)	Noxious weed species are present in the areas adjacent to but not within the project area. Project activities can be implemented and prevent the spread of noxious weeds into the project area.
Moderate (4-7)	Noxious weed species located immediately adjacent to or within the project area. Project activities are likely to result in some areas becoming infested with noxious weed species even when preventative management actions are followed. Control measures are essential to prevent the spread of noxious weeds within the project area.
High (7-10)	Heavy infestations of noxious weeds are located within or immediately adjacent to the project area. Project activities, even with preventative management actions, are likely to result in the establishment and spread of noxious weeds on disturbed sites throughout much of the project area.

For this project, the factor rates as Moderate (5) at the present time. Due to the nature of the event and the tendency for vehicles to carry seeds from other sources, there is a moderate risk of areas along the course becoming infested by noxious or non-native invasive weeds. The primary concern for this project is the potential introduction of Sahara mustard (*Brassica tournefortii*) into the area from Las Vegas. Most of the participants will be coming from the Clark County area which is heavily infested with this noxious weed. Vehicles **must** be properly cleaned prior to racing to prevent spreading the infestation into Lincoln County.

Factor 2 assesses the consequences of noxious weed establishment in the project area.

Low to Nonexistent (1-3)	None. No cumulative effects expected.
Moderate (4-7)	Possible adverse effects on site and possible expansion of infestation within the project area. Cumulative effects on native plant communities are likely but limited.
High (8-10)	Obvious adverse effects within the project area and probable expansion of noxious weed infestations to areas outside the project area. Adverse cumulative effects on native plant communities are probable.

For this project, the factor rates as High (8). Most of the race route is considered to be weed-free. Any new weed infestations in this area could have adverse effects on the native vegetation. If cheatgrass or red brome become heavily established it could alter the fire regime of the area.

The Risk Rating is obtained by multiplying Factor 1 by Factor 2.

None (0)	Proceed as planned.
Low (1-10)	Proceed as planned. Initiate control treatment on noxious weed populations that get established in the area.
Moderate (11-49)	Develop preventative management measures for the proposed project to reduce the risk of introduction of spread of noxious weeds into the area. Preventative management measures should include modifying the project to include seeding the area to occupy disturbed sites with desirable species. Monitor the area for at least 3 consecutive years and provide for control of newly established populations of noxious weeds and follow-up treatment for previously treated infestations.
High (50-100)	Project must be modified to reduce risk level through preventative management measures, including seeding with desirable species to occupy disturbed site and controlling existing infestations of noxious weeds prior to project activity. Project must provide at least 5 consecutive years of monitoring. Projects must also provide for control of newly established populations of noxious weeds and follow-up treatment for previously treated infestations.

For this project, the Risk Rating is (**Moderate, 40**). Based on this risk rating, preventative management measures are needed for this project. Preventative

measures to help mitigate the possible effects of the race on the native plant communities include:

Preventative measures: Take before and after observation photos of key impact and possible weed vector areas, as required by our OHV monitoring report. These photo points are repeated as the course is used in following years.

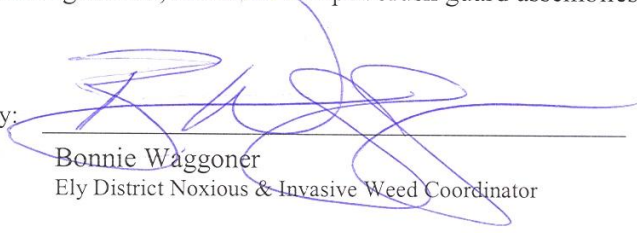
Active measures: Insure the promoter knows about and promotes the stipulation requiring the racers to wash there race vehicle before the event. Racers who do not comply will be subject to penalty and/or disqualification.

Reactive measures: Notify the proper weed control agency concerning treating any populations of noxious weeds observed following the race. Establish photo point sites at key locations (as outlined in the BLM rangeland guide) in relation to course impacts and existing or possible weed populations along the course. Revisit these monitoring points for three years to monitor any changes related to weeds. Monitor any known infestations and do follow up treatments as necessary.

In addition to these measures the following Ely District BMPs will be followed:

- Prior to entering public lands, the contractor, operator, or permit holder will provide information and training regarding noxious weed management and identification to all personnel who will be affiliated with the implementation of the project. The importance of preventing the spread of weeds to uninfested areas and importance of controlling existing populations of weeds will be explained.
- To eliminate the transport of vehicle-borne weed seeds, roots, or rhizomes all vehicles and heavy equipment used for the completion, maintenance, inspection, or monitoring of ground disturbing activities or for authorized off-road driving will be free of soil and debris capable of transporting weed propagules. All such vehicles and equipment will be cleaned with power or high pressure equipment prior to entering or leaving the work site or project area. Cleaning efforts will concentrate on tracks, feet and tires, and on the undercarriage. Special emphasis will be applied to axels, frames, cross members, motor mounts, on and underneath steps, running boards, and front bumper/brush guard assemblies.

Reviewed by:


Bonnie Waggoner
Ely District Noxious & Invasive Weed Coordinator

3/14/08
Date